

## 3.—FOREST SETTLEMENTS.

33. In the Thána Collectorate the settlement inquiries have been completed in the five sub-divisions of Sálsette, Bhiwndi, Kályan, Mokháda Peta, and Bassein; they are in progress in the Karjat Táluka and Khálápúr Peta; and they have to be undertaken in the Máhim, Dahánu, Váda, Shahápúr, and Murbád Tálukás, and in the Umbargaon Peta. It may be said that  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the forest area of the district remain to be treated by the Forest Settlement Officer.

34. In the Khándesh Collectorate the settlement has been completed in the Sávda, Yával, Raver, Chopda, Shirpur, Sháháda, Amalner, Erándol, Jalgaon, Bhusával and Edlabad ranges, is in progress in the Jámner, Páchora, Bhadgaon and Táloda ranges, and remains to be commenced in Akrani, Nandurbár, Pimpalner, Navápúr, Nízámpúr, Dhulia, Sindkheda, and Chálisgaon ranges. About  $\frac{3}{8}$  of the forest area of this Collectorate is still to be settled.

35. Out of the 12 forest ranges of the Násik Collectorate the forests of 9 have been settled under the Forest Act, and found to be free of all private rights, save of way; the settlement is in progress in 2 ranges, *viz.*, Peint and Dindori, and it has to be made yet in one—Igatpuri. Thus about  $\frac{7}{8}$  of the forest area of the Collectorate have been finally settled.

36. In the Poona Collectorate the work of enquiring into rights and settling the forests has been finished in the 6 ranges of Mával, Sirúr, Indápúr, Bhimthadi, Baramati, and has been partially done in the other 6 ranges of Junnar, Haveli, Mulshi, Purandhar, Khed, and Ambegaon. The forests of 111 villages were settled during the year: and probably one-third of the forest area of the Collectorate has to be settled.

37. The settlement inquiries in all the 11 tálukás and 2 petás or 13 forest ranges of the Sátára Collectorate have been completed, with the exception of lands newly acquired in 5 tálukás, the demarcation reports of which are before Government. Practically the work is finished in the Collectorate.

38. In the Sholápúr Collectorate also the only settlement inquiries in the future will be in respect of such additional lands now occupied and included in the different demarcation schemes as may from time to time be acquired by purchase or exchanges.

39. The settlement of about 34 square miles of "Reserved Forests" in the Mándvi Táluka of the Surat Collectorate has yet to be made; but as very careful inquiries were conducted at the time these forest lands were first reserved when Mr. (now Sir) Theodore Hope was Collector of the district, the enquiries under the Forest Act will be of a purely formal nature.

40. In the Panch Maháls the forests of one range, Kálol, only have been completely subjected to settlement; the work has to be done in the four other ranges of Godhra, Halol, Jhálod or Dohád, or in about  $\frac{7}{8}$  of the forest area.

41. Enquiries into forest rights in respect of inám alienated villages have likewise been made by the Forest Settlement Officers in all the divisions. Their opinions in each case, with a report of the circumstances of the Inámdárs' claim and the rights of Government so as to fix the legal status of respective proprietary rights in so far as the forests are concerned, are submitted to the Legal Remembrancer, who records his own opinion, and finally a formal order of Government is resolved and published. Thus in the Khándesh Collectorate Mr. Ommanney enquired into and reported upon 4 cases, and Mr. Lamb upon 76; and the orders of Government have been received regarding 77 of these 80 villages, 32 villages remain to be reported upon, and 35 villages remain for Government to pass orders upon. In the Poona Collectorate 29 villages remained to be disposed of at the commencement of the year; the Forest Settlement Officer submitted reports regarding 21 of these during the year. In the Sátára Collectorate all the inám villages have been subjected to enquiry by Mr. Báláji Gangádhár Sathé in a very careful and able manner, and the orders of Government have been published in the cases of 53 villages up to the end of the year. In a few years hence there will be a complete record, the result of very detailed and exact inquiries, of not only the proprietary rights of Government on the one hand and of private individuals on the other, but also of rights of user in respect of all forests and timber growth in the Presidency.